Median lobe of ninth tergite slender, as in the *tenuipes* group. Dorsal interbase produced into a slender chitinized rod, at about two-thirds the length narrowed and bent at a right angle to the acute tip. Ventral interbase in its general contour suggesting the body of a bird, the flattened body portion with about eight delicate setae, the head produced mesad into a strong chitinized beak, the region of the frons with a smaller squat spine. Dististyle a long flattened blade that narrows gradually to the subacute apex.

Habitat.—Virginia. *Holotype:* ♂, Dead Run, Fairfax County, September 27, 1914 *(R. C. Shannon).*

A New Species of the Genus Condidea (Diptera, Syrphidae).

By Raymond C. Osburn, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

The genus *Condidea* was erected in 1907 by Coquillett (Canadian Entomologist, XXXIX, p. 75) to include only his new species *Condidea lata,* which thereby became the genotype. Although *Condidea* is related rather closely to *Sericomyia* Meigen, it has been generally accepted as a distinct genus. *C. lata* has been taken a number of times and shows a considerable range in distribution, from the New England states to Wisconsin, but it has nowhere been reported as common. Johnson (Fauna of New England, 15, Occasional Papers of the Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., VII, Feb., 1925) has placed the *Sericomyia sexfasciata* of Walker, also a rare species, in the genus *Condidea.* Both of these species are probably quite northern in their distribution. In consideration of these facts, it will be of interest to describe and record another species of *Condidea.* This is also northern, taken at Fargo, North Dakota, and thus far is known from a single female. The specimen has been in my hands for a number of years, but I have delayed describing it in the hope that more material might come to hand.

Condidea transversa n. sp.

General characters very similar to those selected by Coquillett in *C. lata* for defining the genus, but differing in a number of ways, especially in the character of the abdominal markings.

♀. Face yellow, with yellowish pollen and fine yellowish white pile; a black facial stripe connects on the antennal process with the black of the front, and below with a broad oral margin of the same color, which also covers the cheeks broadly. Front narrowed above with a well-marked median groove; whitish pollinose on the lower part, a supra-antennal spot and the upper part more shining, pile short and black. First two antennal joints black, third joint reddish brown, sub-quadrate, with rounded angles; arista also reddish and long reddish plumose. Occiput with long yellow pile behind the vertex and on the lower part, between these the pile is very short and is black near the eye margins. Face and tubercle moderately produced.

Thorax bronze, with blue reflections, humeri distinctly white pollinose, pile above very short, dark yellowish, becoming blackish on the disc, on the pleurae longer and light yellowish. Scutellum purplish bronze, with pile above very short and black, longer on the margin and mixed with yellow on the sides. There is a transverse band of light yellow short pile between the black pile of the thorax and that of the scutellum.

Abdomen ovate, distinctly broader than thorax, depressed, hind margins of the third and fourth segments somewhat shining and the whole of the fifth conspicuously shining. Segments 2, 3 and 4 each with a pair of conspicuous, straight, transverse yellow spots, broadly separated on the midline, more narrowly separated from the lateral and anterior margins. The spots on segment 2 are very striking, more than half the length of the segment and fully twice as broad as the following spots, which are about equal in size. The anterior and posterior borders of all the spots are straight and parallel. Pile very short, longer and yellowish on the anterior angles and on the yellow spots of segment 2; otherwise black. Venter reddish yellow on sides near base; otherwise black.

Femora black, tibiae and tarsi dark brown, the knees narrowly reddish brown, pulvilli yellowish. Wings somewhat infuscated at base and on anterior part, veins black, pleurostigma brown, venation like that of *C. lata*, the third vein considerably incurved into the first posterior cell. Halteres light reddish yellow; alulae white, with long whitish yellow pile. Length, 13 mm.

Holotype, a single female taken by O. A. Stevens at Fargo, North Dakota, June 22, 1913, on flowers of *Rubus strigosus*.

The species of *Condilea, lata, scrfasciata* and *transversa*, differ from *Sericomyia* in the curved third vein, the very broad first pair of abdominal spots, and the more depressed form of

the abdomen. These species may be separated by the shape and position of the abdominal spots, as follows:

1. First pair nearly round, the following ones reniform or broken into spots, the third noticeably oblique ....*C. lata*
2. First pair constricted at the middle or abruptly widened at the outer end, the following ones similar in form but narrower ..... *C. sexfasciata*
3. First pair nearly twice as long as wide, the anterior and posterior borders straight and parallel, the following spots much narrower, all the spots transverse.....*C. transversa*

Assistance Wanted in the Study of Ants (Hym.: Formicidae).

EDITOR, ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS:

The writer, who is a graduate student in the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois, has chosen as a subject for his doctorate thesis a study of the ants of a Middle-Western town, with especial reference to those infesting houses.

Among the eight or ten species of ants known as common house pests in Urbana, Illinois, there is one species that is extremely abundant and annoying; this species is *Tapinoma sessile* Say.

This ant is about 2.4 mm. long, varies from a light brown to almost a pitch black in color, and is easily recognized by the absence of a well-developed scale or node on the petiole. The workers when crushed have a peculiar rotten cocoanut-like or nauseating odor. These ants have a fondness for nesting in the soil under logs, stones, planks or leaves and are often found nesting in rotting wood or under the loose bark of fallen logs and limbs. As it is a native ant, it has a wide distribution and should be found in every state in the Union.

I wish to fully investigate the distribution, biology, and control of this species and also attempt to definitely ascertain whether it has sub-species or varieties. If you have alcoholic or mounted specimens of *Tapinoma sessile*, will you not kindly loan them to the writer for study? Any information you are in position to furnish concerning any phase of this ant's biology, distribution, control, natural enemies, etc., will be very helpful to me and will be greatly appreciated. In the event that I publish, I shall be glad to make the proper acknowledgments.

Trusting that I may secure your interest and co-operation in this investigation, and assuring you of my willingness to reciprocate in any possible way,

M. R. SMITH, Natural History Bldg., Urbana, Illinois.